

CHURCH SCHOOL BUILDINGS

The Diocese schools currently fall into three categories Academies, Voluntary Controlled and Voluntary Aided Schools. These have very distinct differences relating to their buildings but one commonality in regard to the land and buildings. The land and buildings are owned by the diocese generally under ancient trust deeds that have as the original Trustees Vicar and Church Wardens. There are numerous variations however it is helpful to generalise, at the same time recognising the need to investigate fully the individual sites when required.

The Diocese' role is to assist schools in safe guarding their assets of both the value of the buildings and land. To this end any alterations, extensions, expansions, and changes to the building generally require the permission of the Diocese. The Diocese particularly assists Voluntary Aided Schools in advising on building development and capital asset planning.

Academies: Land and buildings are held by Diocese and playing fields retained by Local Authority (LA) on a 125 year Lease

Voluntary Controlled: Land and buildings held by Diocese and playing fields by LA. In 1944 VC School came under the LA and therefore they are responsible for maintenance of the buildings.

Voluntary Aided: Land and buildings held by Diocese and playing fields by LA. They remain as voluntary aided and funded schools supported by their local parish and are more independently funded. This gives the school access to different capital funding streams but also liabilities and obligations. Primarily the requirement to pay governors 10% on all capital funded projects including Devolved Formula Capital and Local Authority Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP). They also unlike LA are required to pay VAT.

Devolved Formulae Capital Voluntary Aided Schools

The majority of the 58 VA Schools have opted to have this annual funding from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) to come direct to them in June, although some are directly managed by the Diocese. A 90% allocation is granted on the basis of the governors contributing 10% towards any invoices, and that the works are above the £2,000 de minimis level. This funding is for general capital maintenance at the discretion of the school and premises committee.

Schools are required annually in the following spring term to submit a return to the EFA signed off and returned via the Schools Buildings Officer. Funds can be carried over for up to three to four years and to avoid losing them, transferred into the Diocese held Cluster Fund. This funding is audited and has been reduced significantly over the past five years.

Local Authority Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme LCVAP

This funding is made available as an annual/biannual allocation to both the Church of England and Catholic Voluntary Aided Schools for larger capital funded maintenance projects. Previously this was for suitability and refurbishment, but due to funding cuts is almost exclusively for larger maintenance projects that cannot be funded through devolved formulae capital. Both Diocese negotiate on the basis of need agreed projects and each

LA confirms and acts as arbitrator. Like the LA funded VC and Community schools there is constantly more demand than can be met by the funding.

The Diocese asks all Schools to complete an annual Capital Asset and Development plan (Form) to assist in allocating funds fairly across the Diocese schools. This should be provided early in the autumn term and cover at least three years, and is used as the basis for allocating funds once these are released.

To ensure compliance with government audited requirements the Diocese will ask the schools to do the following:

- Work closely with qualified consultants approved by the Diocese
- Accept conditions for the granting of the funding
- Governors to sign and pay 10% of overall project costs
- Diocese to administer with the SLA contribution

General Information

Prospective Changes to Capital Funding 2015

We are awaiting the outcome of the James Review and recent national condition data surveys due in the Autumn Term will inform their funding formulae and strategy. This together with a potential change in government next year, may well lead to changes in how the funding is distributed across the whole education sector. We will update you once this is known.

Priority Schools Building Programme Phase 2

All Schools were invited in July 2015 via the LA and responsible bodies such as the Diocese for VA Schools to submit bids for capital funding where there was a need for substantial capital investment and disrepair. The Diocese supported various bids via the LA and directly to EFA, although most schools did not fall into this narrow category of dilapidation.

Basic Need and Targeted Basic Need

The EFA has over the last few years provided funding to the LA to fulfil their duty to provide school places for all children and the expansion of schools. The changing demographics and demand for more places, together with the reduction in new school building programmes has seen more church schools expanding to meet this local community need. Church of England schools were set up primarily to provide education for the poor and local children of the parish under the National Society leadership. This aim remains the same today and therefore several of our schools have expanded and continue to enlarge to meet local demand for our successful schools.

In previous years building remodelling and expansion projects were completed under government BB99 and BB98 standards, but this has been replaced by the government's baseline design standards; and is no longer as generous. The Diocese aims to work closely with the LA and schools to meet this need and ensure it does not adversely impact on other church or local schools.